

May 14, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPT GRANT AWARD FROM THE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(3rd and 4th DISTRICTS) (4 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept and execute a grant award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for \$840,261 for projects funded under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.
2. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment to establish Capital Project No. 86579 for the Manhattan Beach Access Repairs for \$435,000, appropriate funding in the Project and Facility Development budget for the Topanga Creek Watershed Hydrology Analysis and Water Quality Assessment for \$185,000, and appropriate funding in the Parks and Recreation budget for the Tri-Watershed Preservation and Acquisition for \$220,000.
3. Approve the allocation of the grant funds awarded from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Tri-Watershed Preservation and Acquisition to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for partial funding of the purchase of open space known as the Zuniga Creek Pond and Wetlands.
4. Authorize the Chief Administrative Office, the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works to implement the projects.

Honorable Board of Supervisors
May 8, 2002
Page 2

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On April 3, 2001, your Board adopted a motion instructing the Chief Administrative Office to submit a priority list of projects that improve coastal resources to the California Resources Agency for funding consideration pursuant to Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The U.S. Secretary of Commerce approved the State's CIAP funding request, which included three County projects. The aggregate amount awarded to the County is \$840,261.

Funding for the grant is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The proposed grant requires acceptance by your Board by May 15, 2002 or it will be withdrawn. Upon acceptance of the grant, the County will have until February 28, 2005 to expend the grant funds. The three County projects that were funded under the NOAA award include:

- **Manhattan Beach Access Repairs:** This project entails: 1) the repair or replacement of an existing retaining wall that provides support for the vehicular parking lot and separates the parking lot from the beach area; and 2) the repair or replacement of the access stairs that lead from the parking lot to the South Bay Bicycle Trail. The project is currently estimated to cost \$1.2 million and the proposed grant amount of \$435,261 is insufficient to proceed with the project at this time.

Due to the extended period of time allowed under the grant to expend the funds, it is recommended that your Board accept the grant as initial funding for the project and establish C.P. No. 86579 in the 2001-02 Capital Projects/Refurbishment Budget to retain and account for the funds. The Department of Beaches and Harbors and the CAO will work together to identify additional funding resources and return to your Board with final project scope and funding recommendations prior to proceeding with the project.

- **Topanga Creek Watershed Hydrology Analysis and Water Quality Assessment:** These studies will provide data that will contribute to the completion of the Topanga Creek Watershed Management Plan, which will serve as the basis for an integrated management approach to the entire Topanga Creek watershed. The Management Plan will focus on the protection of the existing habitat, properties,

and infrastructure, identify pollution sources within the watershed, and provide guidelines for the overall improvement of the watershed.

The Hydrology Analysis will analyze the hydrological processes of the watershed and help determine the feasibility of lagoon and watershed enhancement and restoration designs. The Water Quality Assessment will examine the relationship between water quality and associated land use practices, point and non-point source pollution, and distribution of sensitive species.

Public Works Watershed Management Division will work with the Santa Monica Mountains Resources Conservation District (SMMRCD) under a partnership or services agreement to complete these studies. The total project cost is estimated at \$325,980: SMMRCD will provide \$140,980 in funding and the remaining \$185,000 will be provided by the NOAA grant. It is anticipated that the Water Quality Assessment will require two years to complete while the Hydrological Analysis should be completed within six months.

- **Tri-Watershed Preservation and Acquisition (part of the Zuniga Creek Pond and Wetlands):** This project represents a collaborative effort between Los Angeles County and other public agencies and nonprofit organizations to protect the headwater of three major coastal watersheds: Zuniga Creek and Pond of Old Topanga Creek of Topanga Creek; Dry Canyon Creek of Arroyo Calabasas of the Los Angeles River; and Cold Creek of Malibu Creek.

The project entails the acquisition of three parcels with an aggregate acreage of 120 acres that are adjacent to State-owned parklands in the Zuniga Creek and Pond of Old Topanga area of the Topanga Creek Watershed, which empties into the Pacific Ocean just west of Topanga County Beach. The parcels have an appraised value of \$4.4 million but an agreement has been reached to acquire the parcels for \$1.1 million. The proposed acquisition is funded by several grants including the NOAA grant of \$220,000.

On December 2000, your Board adopted a Resolution authorizing Parks and Recreation to submit an application for funding to the State Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program. That application stated that the County would be the titleholder of the subject property. In November 2001, Parks and Recreation

Honorable Board of Supervisors
May 8, 2002
Page 4

received approval from the State to change the titleholder from the County to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The Department is recommending that title be held by the MCRA, which is the operating arm of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Your Board's approval of this action will allow the NOAA funds to be accepted by the County and transferred to the MRCA to acquire the subject property. In addition, Parks and Recreation is recommending that a condition be inserted into the escrow instructions requiring the property be held and open for public use in perpetuity.

The Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works have reviewed these recommendations and concur with our overall objectives set forth.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These projects are designed to ensure public access and enjoyment of its beaches and protect the long-term integrity of the recreational resources, which are enjoyed by the County's ten million residents while conserving and enhancing the County's coastal resources and further the County's long-term goal of protecting the environmental quality of its coast through coordinated management of its coastal watersheds.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Manhattan Beach Access Repairs Project is estimated to cost \$1,081,000. The proposed grant award for the project is \$435,000. The CAO and DBH will identify additional funding resources prior to implementation of the project. The Topanga Creek Watershed Hydrology Analysis and Water Quality Assessment is estimated to cost \$325,980 which will be fully offset by the grant award and SMMRCD funds.

The Tri-Watershed Preservation and Acquisition Project will cost \$1,100,000 to complete. The grant amount for this acquisition project is \$220,000. The balance of funding required to complete the acquisition includes \$300,000 from the Mountains Restoration Trust, \$280,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; and a grants from the Habitat Conservation Fund totaling \$300,000 that are recommended for approval by your Board in a related item on today's agenda. No additional operating costs to the County are anticipated as a result of these projects.

Honorable Board of Supervisors
May 8, 2002
Page 5

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Provisions within the grant award require the County to comply with the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions; NOAA Special Award Conditions; OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for the State, local, and Indian Tribal Government; 15 CFR Part 24, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, and Local Governments, and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Government, and Non-Profit Organizations.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no adverse impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Administrative Office (Capital Projects), Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:SNY:JSE
DJT:LHB:mda

Attachments (1)

c: County Counsel
Beaches and Harbors
Parks and Recreation
Public Works
Auditor-Controller